Findings of the Probe into Fire on ONGC Platform

389. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the probe made into the causes of the fire that engulfed an oil platform on ONGC at Bombay High on July 27; and

(b) the steps taken to minimize the damage, to salvage the ship, the equipment and machines involved in the fire and to prevent any further accidents of the type?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) The report of the inquiry committee constituted by ONGC is expected by January, 2006, Separately, the Government consitituted an Independent Inquiry Committee on 15/09/2005, headed by Shri T.N.R. Rao, Ex-Secretary (Petroleum & Natural Gas), Government of India, to investigate the incident. The Committee has been given 6 months i.e. upto 14th March, 2006 to submit its report to the Government.

(b) Immediately after the accident, ONGC closed all the wells by remote control to stop the flow of hydrocarbons to the BHN Platform. The closure of the wells was physically confirmed by carrying out helicopter sorties to unmanned platforms connected to the BHN Process Complex and, as a result, the extent of damage to bridges connected with BHF, MNW and NA Platforms was minimized. The oil spill was also insignificant.

The following steps are further being taken by ONGC:

(i) Action is being taken to put the NA platforms back on production. It is expected to start production by December 2005.

(ii) Operations at MNW are planned to be revived by pre-monsoon 2006, for which action has already been initiated.

(iii) Loss and integrity assessment of the structure of BHF Platform is being done.

(iv) For salvaging the debris of BHN Platform i.e. damaged equipment and machinery etc., action has been initiated by ONGC to locate the debris around the complex. Subsequently, a detailed action plan will be prepared for its salvage. Action is being taken for

developing a new process complex in place of the BHN-Platform by post-monsoon 2008.

(v) ONGC have authorized SCI to re-float Samudra Suraksha. This is likely to be completed by April 2006.

To prevent any further accidents of the type, the following steps have been taken:

- Instructions have been issued for the safe movement of vessels offshore, specifically when the vessels are approaching offshore installations.
- Operating Manual for Safe Operating Procedure (SOP) of Offshore Supply Vessels (OSVs) has been firmed up and approved. It is being vetted by M/s Shell.
- Mandatory Sea Survival and Basic Fire Fighting for all offshore crew, both ONGC and contractor's
- Modification of Management of Change system.

Further action/steps will also be examined after receipt of the Inquiry Committee reports.

Stamp duty on green market transactions

*390. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from the Association of National Stock Exchange Members of India (ANSEMI) stating that equal investors have to pay stamp duty twice on all green market transactions routed through terminals located outside Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of other issues raised therein;

(c) whether any intervention of his Ministry has prompted the State Government of Maharashtra to revise its earlier decision;

(d) whether Government are aware that Maharashtra Government has decided to revise its earlier decision in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?